

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of digital imaging utilizing a look-down digital imaging device to form a resulting high-resolution digital image, said method comprising:
 - illuminating a target scan area below said look-down digital imaging device;
 - capturing video data of said target scan area;
 - displaying said captured video data on a display; and
 - sweeping an image raster line once across said target scan area, thereby capturing said resulting high-resolution digital image of an original object.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said captured resulting high-resolution digital image of said original object is a single, congruent digital image of said original object.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - performing optical character recognition operations on said captured resulting high-resolution digital image data of said original object.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said high resolution is no less than approximately 300 dpi.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - selecting at least a portion of said original object to be captured as said resulting high-resolution digital image.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said look-down digital imaging device recognizes said at least a portion of said original object to be captured as that portion over which an indicator is moved.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said sweeping is achieved by at least one movement selected from the group consisting of:

pivoting said look-down digital imaging device about an axis, pivoting said look-down digital imaging device about an axis and translating look-down digital imaging device vertically relative to said target scan area during said pivoting, and translating said look-down digital imaging device laterally relative to said target scan area.

10. (Previously Presented) A look-down digital imaging device comprising:
linear sensor for imaging a raster line of an object placed substantially below said look-down digital imaging device; and
lens for focusing reflected light from said object to said linear sensor, wherein said linear sensor receives a non-folded optical path of light reflected from said object.

11. (Original) The look-down digital imaging device of claim 10 wherein said linear sensor comprises a tri-liner color CCD array.

12. (Previously Presented) The look-down digital imaging device of claim 10 wherein said linear sensor is a high resolution sensor that captures digital image data of said object at resolution no less than approximately 300 dpi.

13. (Previously Presented) The look-down digital imaging device of 10 wherein said linear sensor is a high resolution sensor that captures digital image data of said object at sufficient resolution to permit optical character recognition operations to be performed on said digital image data.

14. (Previously Presented) The look-down digital imaging device of claim 10 further comprising a digital video camera for capturing video data of said object.

15. (Original) The look-down digital imaging device of claim 10 implemented as a stand-alone device.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A system for performing digital imaging comprising:
a look-down digital imaging device that includes means for imaging a raster line over a target scan area, means for focusing reflected light from said target scan area to said imaging means, and means for capturing video data of said target scan area for providing a video preview of the target scan area before said imaging means captures an image of said target scan area.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein said means for imaging is a high resolution linear sensor.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18 wherein said high resolution is resolution no less than approximately 300 dpi.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17 wherein said means for imaging a raster line over said target scan area sweeps said raster line once over said target scan area for capturing a final image of an original object at a desired resolution.

22. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:
a look-down digital imaging device that includes a linear sensor, wherein said look-down digital imaging device is operable to sweep a raster line across a target area of an original object placed substantially below said look-down digital imaging device to capture an image of said target area by said linear sensor;
a digital video camera for capturing video data of said target area; and
a display for displaying the captured video data.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the digital video camera captures the video data of said target area and said display displays the captured video data to provide a preview of the target area to be imaged by the look-down digital imaging device before said look-down digital imaging device capturing said image of said target area.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22 wherein said linear sensor is a high-resolution sensor that captures said image of said target area at a resolution no less than 300 dpi.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22 further comprising:
processor-based device operable to receive the captured image of said target area and
perform optical character recognition operations on said captured image.

26. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said sweeping an image raster line
once across said target scan area, thereby capturing said resulting high-resolution digital
image of an original object, comprises:

sweeping said image raster line once across said target scan area, thereby capturing
said resulting high-resolution digital image of an original object by a linear sensor.

27. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said capturing video data of said target
scan area and displaying said captured video data on a display comprises:

displaying real-time video feedback of the target scan area.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising:
using the video feedback for aligning the original object as desired within the target
scan area.

29. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising:
using the video feedback for previewing the quality of image to be captured upon
performing said sweeping.

30. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein said previewing the quality of image
comprises recognizing any undesired glare spots present on the original object.

31. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said capturing said resulting high-
resolution digital image of an original object comprises:

capturing said high-resolution digital image by a linear sensor that receives a
non-folded optical path of light reflected from said original object.

32. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said displaying said captured video
data on a display comprises:

displaying a video preview of the target scan area before said capturing of said
sweeping step.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 further comprising:
determining from said video preview when said original object is aligned in said target scan area as desired; and
upon determining that said target scan area is aligned as desired, triggering said sweeping step.

34. (New) The look-down digital imaging device of claim 14 further comprising a display, wherein said digital video camera and said display provide real-time video feedback of a target scan area.

35. (New) The look-down digital imaging device of claim 34 further comprising:
said real-time video feedback providing a reference for aligning the object as desired within the target scan area.

36. (New) The look-down digital imaging device of claim 34 further comprising:
said real-time video feedback providing a preview of the quality of image to be captured by said linear sensor.

37. (New) The look-down digital imaging device of claim 36 wherein said preview of the quality of image includes displaying glare spots present on the object.

38. (New) The look-down digital imaging device of claim 10 wherein said linear sensor sweeps said image raster line across said target scan area only once for capturing a desired image of said object.

39. (New) The look-down digital imaging device of claim 14 further comprising a display for displaying a video preview of a target scan area before said linear sensor imaging said raster line.

40. (New) The system of claim 17 wherein said means for capturing video data of said target scan area for providing a video preview of the target scan area captures real-time video of said target scan area.

41. (New) The system of claim 17 further comprising:
means for displaying said captured video data as a reference for aligning an object as desired within the target scan area.

42. (New) The system of claim 17 further comprising:
means for displaying said captured video data as a preview of the quality of image to be captured by said imaging means.

43. (New) The system of claim 42 wherein said preview of the quality of image includes displaying glare spots present on the target scan area.

44. (New) The system of claim 17 wherein said imaging means receives a non-folded optical path of light reflected from said target scan area.

45. (New) The system of claim 23 wherein said digital video camera provides real-time video feedback to said display of the target area.

46. (New) The system of claim 23 wherein said display outputs video as a reference for aligning said original object within the target area as desired.

47. (New) The system of claim 23 wherein said display outputs video as a preview of quality of image of said original object to be captured by said linear sensor.

48. (New) The system of claim 47 wherein said preview of quality of image includes displaying glare spots present on the original object.

49. (New) The system of claim 22 wherein said look-down digital image device sweeps said raster line across said target area of said original object only once for capturing said image of said target area.

50. (New) The system of claim 49 wherein said target area is the area of said original object desired to be captured as a final resulting image.

51. (New) The system of claim 22 wherein said linear sensor receives a non-folded optical path of light reflected from said target area.

52. (New) A method of capturing a digital image of an object using a look-down digital imaging device, said method comprising:

capturing real-time video data of a target scan area below said look-down digital imaging device;

displaying said captured real-time video data of the target scan area on a display;

arranging an object to be imaged on said target scan area;

referring to said video data displayed on said display to determine if said object is arranged as desired for imaging;

once the object is determined to be arranged as desired, triggering capture of a still image of said object; and

responsive to said triggering, capturing said still image by a linear sensor by sweeping a raster line over the target scan area once resulting in capture of said still image of said object having resolution of at least 300 dpi.

53. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein said capturing further comprises:

receiving at said linear sensor a non-folded optical path of light reflected from said target scan area.